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GO SERV HOSTS CALIFORNIA VISIT OF DR. LESLIE LENKOWSKY, CEO OF CNCS

Newly Appointed CEO Tours Greater LA Area to Promote Citizen's Service Act of 2002

LOS ANGELES – The Governor's Office on Service and Volunteerism (GO SERV) today hosted Dr. Leslie Lenkowsky, CEO of the Corporation for National Community Service (CNCS), on his California site visit of exceptional volunteer programs funded by CNCS and GO SERV. Dr. Lenkowsky is touring the United States to promote the President's Citizen's Service Act of 2002.

"We started to see a dramatic increase in interest in volunteerism the day after the State of the Union address," Dr. Lenkowsky said. "People clearly are taking the President's call seriously."

Since September 11, there has been more than a 30 percent increase in interest in volunteering. The increase in California has been as high as 48 percent. The Citizen's Service Act of 2002 aims to cultivate that interest into service programs across the country that resemble the California programs visited by Dr. Lenkowsky.

Chuck J. Supple, Executive Director for GO SERV, accompanied Dr. Lenkowsky at the site visits. Some of the programs visited today are implemented with funding from GO SERV. GO SERV is California's National Service Commission, disseminating over \$35 million to administer California's AmeriCorps programs and promote and support other service and volunteering programs.

"People want to connect and defend America with acts of good will," Executive Director Supple said. "Californians have really proven that the renewed spirit of volunteerism is alive here, and we will respond to the call to service."

At Meet Each Need with Dignity (MEND), a California State University, Northridge (CSUN) Learn & Serve Project, Dr. Lenkowsky enlisted to help students sort cans for emergency food boxes that are distributed three mornings a week.

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LENKOWSKY TOURS CALIFORNIA VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS 2-2-2-2

Dr. Lenkowsky also visited the following volunteer sites:

- The Venice Family Clinic/The Burke Center (VFC), the largest free clinic in the United States where, each year nearly 80,000 medical and mental health visits are provided;
- The WISE “Stay @ Home” project, a collaborative effort among retired and senior volunteers that provides volunteers with training on available local services and resources that enables volunteers to initiate conversations with community members and provide invaluable information about planning for the future; and
- Building Up Los Angeles (BULA), a program of the Los Angeles Conservation Corps. BULA is one of the largest AmeriCorps National Service Projects in the Los Angeles area. It coordinates six full-time, 139 part-time and 33 quarter-time members to provide vital services addressing the most critical educational needs of local neighborhoods.

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